National Science Foundation

NSF DAY SPEAKERS—From NSF

Sept. 12, 2017

University of Saint Joseph

Amanda "Manda" Adams
Geosciences
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Manda Adams is a permanent program director for the Education and Cross-Disciplinary Activities program in AGS. She has a Ph.D. in atmospheric and oceanic sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to coming to NSF, Adams was an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. At NSF, Adams is responsible for several grants programs (REU, PRF, CNH, GOLD, NRT, IUSE: GEOPATHS, SEES: Hazards) as well as oversight of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), NSF's largest FFRDC. Since 2010, Adams has served on the leadership board of the Earth Science Women's Network, a group for which she helped acquire nonprofit status and serves as the secretary of its board of directors. In 2017, Adams was the recipient of the American Meteorological Society's Early Career Achievement Award.

Lara A. Campbell
Director's Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE)
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Lara A. Campbell is a program director who facilitates NSF engagement with the Middle East and Africa; serves on the interagency Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems working group; and coordinates NSF collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Bank. She has worked in international science collaboration since 2005 for the U.S. Department of State, USAID and U.S. Department of Defense programs. Campbell was a Fulbright Scholar in the Middle East from 2008 to 2009 and her joyful struggle to learn Arabic continues to this day. Her Ph.D. is in organic chemistry.

Cheryl L. Eavey
Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE)
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Cheryl L. Eavey is program director for the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics program in the SES Division, where she has been since 1993. Eavey has been involved in a number of NSF activities, including most recently, the NSF-Census Research Network, Software Infrastructure for Sustained Innovation and Data Infrastructure Building Blocks. She coordinated the management of the SBE large-scale project on Decision Making Under Uncertainty and chaired NSF's Art of Science Project from 2001 to 2010. She earned a B.S. in mathematics and political science from Valparaiso University in Indiana and an M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from Michigan State. She has served on the faculty of the political science departments at Florida State, the Business School at Washington University in St. Louis and the U.S. Business School in Prague (Czech Republic).

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Steve Meacham
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Steve Meacham is a senior staff associate who coordinates the analysis and assessment of NSF's merit review process and leads the writing team for NSF's new strategic plan. In OIA, he coordinated a team administering a research laboratory construction program. He has been an NSF program officer in other areas such as physical oceanography, climate dynamics, mathematical geosciences, information technology research, and high-performance computing centers and facilities. Prior to joining NSF, Meacham was a researcher at a private company, where his research was in the area of theoretical and computational geophysical fluid dynamics.

James Neff
Mathematical and Physical Sciences
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James Neff is a program director currently serving as the coordinator for all AST individual investigator programs. Before becoming a full-time employee, Neff served at NSF for three years on an Intergovernmental Personnel Act detail from the College of Charleston, where he was a professor of physics and astronomy. He received his Ph.D. in astrophysics from the University of Colorado. Neff's research interests include the solar-terrestrial and solar-stellar connections, high-resolution spectroscopy, as well as robotic observatory facilities and astronomical instrumentation.

Carole Read
Engineering
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Carole Read has been at NSF for five years, first as a program officer in the Engineering Research Centers (ERC) Program. Read continues to manage the Nanosystems ERC for Nanotechnology Enabled Water Treatment Systems. Prior to NSF, she served as a technology development manager in the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the Hydrogen and Fuel Cells program (now the Fuel Cell Technologies Office). She also has industrial experience at Arthur D. Little in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in chemical and energy industry consulting with expertise in technology assessment, as well as in the petrochemical industry in process development. She holds a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Delaware and a business management certificate from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

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Monya Ruffin
Education and Human Resources
Division of Research on Learning (DRL) in Formal and Informal Settings
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Monya Ruffin is a program director in DRL and co-lead for the Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) Program. Ruffin's NSF portfolio consists primarily of research and development projects germane to the biological sciences, environmental sciences, maker spaces, educational technology and broadening participation in science within formal and informal science education contexts. Ruffin works with several programs in EHR, as well as with crosscutting NSF programs such as NSF INCLUDES. Prior to joining NSF, she led education and research initiatives while serving as a director, deputy director and senior research analyst at various organizations. She has also served on the faculty at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and as a high school science teacher. Ruffin holds a B.S. in biology, a Master of Education in Secondary Science Education (biology) and a Ph.D. in teaching + learning biology/instructional technology.

Sam Scheiner
Biological Sciences
Division of Environmental Biology (DEB)
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Sam Scheiner currently serves as a program director in DEB, where he helps run programs in evolutionary processes and in ecology and the evolution of infectious disease. A theoretical biologist, Scheiner works in evolution, ecology and general biology. In evolution, he examines modeling phenotypic plasticity and the use of structural equation modeling for measuring trait relationships and natural selection. In ecology, he focuses on macroecological patterns of diversity, species richness relationships and diversity metrics. In general biology, he is developing a set of general theories encompassing all of biology. Prior to coming to NSF, Scheiner was an associate professor at Arizona State University West, assistant and associate professor at Northern Illinois University and adjunct faculty at the University of Arizona.

Alejandro "Al" Suarez
Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)
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Al Suarez is an assistant program director supporting large cooperative agreements within OAC. Suarez is a computational physicist by training, with a background in surface science and the chemical modification of graphene. Alejandro hold a B.S. in applied physics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a Ph.D. in physics from PennState University. He has also served as a National Research Council postdoctoral associate at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory and a AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow at NSF.

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Lisa-Joy Zgorski
Office of the Director's Office of Legislative and Public Affairs
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Lisa-Joy Zgorski is a public affairs specialist and NSF Days lead. Since joining NSF in 2007, Zgorski has received Director's Awards for work with the Computer & Information Science & Engineering and Education and Human Resources directorates, and the National Science Board. Her other "beats" have included NSF's International office; Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate; and the Physics and Astronomy divisions. She served as a legislative aide for U.S. Rep. Barbara Kennelly (D-CT); press secretary for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and (then-gubernatorial candidate) Gov. Dan Malloy of Connecticut; and as a public affairs specialist in the press offices of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, the Office of Management and Budget and The Century Foundation. She holds an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government; a B.A. from Mount Holyoke College and certificates in policy studies from Dartmouth College and the Charles University Law Faculty in Prague.

NSF DAY SPEAKERS—Luncheon Speakers

Sept. 12, 2017

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

Elizabeth Holzer
Associate Professor of Sociology and Human Rights
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Elizabeth Holzer seeks to foster a fuller and more humane understanding of how people engage with politics in situations of violence and instability. Holzer's recent book, "The Concerned Women of Buduburam," which documented the resurgence of everyday politics in a refugee camp, is receiving book awards from the American Sociological Association's sections on Political Sociology, Peace, War and Social Conflict, and Human Rights. In 2016, she launched an NSF Partnerships in International Research and Education with engineers at the University of Connecticut, the Ethiopian Institute for Water Resources and other institutions to explore the political institutional constraints on international science and technology development.

Dannel "Dan" P. Malloy
Governor
State of Connecticut

Dan Malloy is serving in his second term as Connecticut's Governor. Since 2011, his administration's top agenda items have included creating jobs, improving public education, stabilizing the state's finances, making long-overdue investments in the state's transportation infrastructure, and protecting the environment. He has been a strong proponent of establishing Connecticut as a major center of innovation in growth industries that are leading 21st Century advancements, including in bioscience, digital media, engineering, manufacturing, and other fields. During his first four-year term in office, Connecticut experienced growth in the private sector of more than 70,000 jobs, the best period of private sector job growth since the 1990s. Malloy has made education a focus of his economic development efforts, investing in schools at every level. He has also worked with the state's higher education institutions to implement initiatives that are making Connecticut a major hub of R&D. The Governor has also worked to protect Connecticut's environment. In 2014, he worked to ensure that Preserve, a large, unprotected 1,000-acre coastal forest between New York City and Boston, would be protected. The Governor created the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and charged the agency with implementing the state's first ever Comprehensive Energy Strategy, which revolves around the mantra of "cleaner, cheaper and more reliable energy" and makes major investments in solar energy and other clean energy alternatives. In 2016, Malloy was named the recipient of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation for his defense of the U.S. resettlement of Syrian refugees. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Boston College and continued on to Boston College Law School. He has received honorary degrees from several higher education institutions, including the University of Saint Joseph.

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NSF DAY SPEAKERS—Luncheon Speakers

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University of Saint Joseph

Seth Redfield
Associate Professor of Astronomy and Chair of the Astronomy Department
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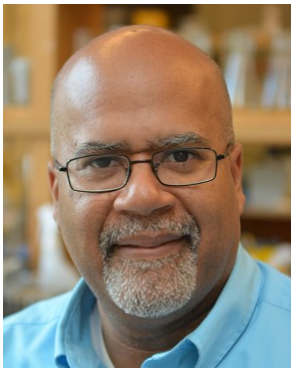
Seth Redfield focuses on the atmospheres of exoplanets and the interstellar clouds drifting between the nearest stars. Redfield is currently the principal investigator for two NSF grants. One is a research AAG/NSF grant that funds a postdoctoral researcher at Wesleyan to work with Redfield. The other is a Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)/NSF program that funds a distributed summer REU program for the Keck Northeast Astronomy Consortium. After obtaining his Ph.D. at the University of Colorado in 2003, he held postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Texas in Austin. In 2008 he joined the faculty at Wesleyan University.



Paul Turner
Interim Dean of Science and Elihu Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
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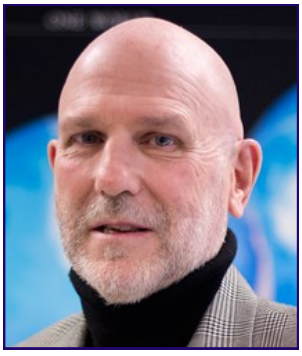
Paul Turner received his Ph.D. from the Center for Microbial Ecology at Michigan State University and conducted postdoctoral work at the University of Maryland College Park, the University of Valencia in Spain, and the National Institutes of Health. Turner's work involves basic research in microbial evolution and the evolution of infectious diseases, often harnessing laboratory populations of viruses as models to study mechanisms of evolutionary change. He also conducts applied research on novel approaches to treat infectious diseases of humans and other organisms. His group uses an interdisciplinary approach, employing techniques from microbiology, population genetics, genomics, molecular biology and mathematical modeling. His website is: http://turnerlab.yale.edu/.



Michael Willig
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; and
Director of the Center for Environmental Sciences & Engineering
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Michael Willig has enjoyed an international career, working in Brazil, Paraguay, and Peru; his research in Puerto Rico has been continuously funded since 1987 by NSF's Long-Term Ecological Research Program. He has been the major advisor of 25 M.S. students, 13 Ph.D. students, and 12 post-doctoral fellows, and has authored over 235 scientific publications, including his recent book, *Long-Term Ecological Research: Changing the Nature of Scientists*.

NSF DAY SPEAKERS—From Saint Joseph's

Sept. 12, 2017

Rhona C. Free
President
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Rhona Free has been the President of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) since July of 2015 where she has championed the creation of the Women's Leadership Center, and guided deliberations that led to USJ's decision to become fully coeducational in the Fall of 2018. Free serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities; locally, she is Secretary of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges Board of Directors and a member of the Hartford Consortium for Higher Education Board. She came to USJ from Eastern Connecticut State University, where she served as vice president for academic affairs from 2007-2013 and provost from 2013-2015. She taught Economics at Eastern for 25 years before becoming an administrator. In 2004, she was recognized as the Council for Advancement and Support of Education/Carnegie Foundation National Professor of the Year from Master's Granting Institutions. Her research has focused on gender and racial/ethnic earnings differences, collective bargaining and occupational health and safety, and innovative teaching methods. She holds a B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College, and earned both her master's and doctoral degrees in Economics from the University of Notre Dame.

Maggie Pinney
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
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Maggie Pinney, a 1995 graduate of University of Saint Joseph (USJ) with a degree in Art History, has been vice president for institutional advancement at USJ since 2015. Prior to her arrival at USJ in 2015, she served for five years as director of development at Westminster School in Simsbury, CT. During her 18-year tenure at Westminster, which included terms as associate director of development and director of major gifts, Pinney led the growth of its Annual Fund to more than triple its original size and contributed to the sizeable increase of its endowment to $90 million. She also managed a 13-person team in implementing post-capital campaign plans, and held a leadership role in the successful $53 million campaign.